

UN Food Security Civil Society Forum

March 26, 2021

774 participants

966 Views: <https://fb.watch/4zde1uKFQq/>

Opening Remarks

Christopher Hagedorn, Secretary, Committee on World Food Security (CFS)

- See this Summit as an opportunity to deliver on the SDGs and make progress
- CSF has their own civil society mechanism that is robust, active and engaged

Agnes Kalabata, US FSS Special Envoy to the Summit

- The Summit launched in 2019 and was designed to meet SDGs and meet as many people as possible
- Opportunities to engage stakeholders through independent dialogues and food systems heroes
- Secretary General has called for action (ambitious action - especially because of the “loss of time”) and change
- Opportunities through CFS for negotiated scientific documents
- The dialogues are important specifically to recognize that food systems are local
- The Summit was designed specifically to address human rights issues - important to not lose sight of this in relation to all of the SDGs
 - CSM-need to address human rights, working with the representation on human rights
 - Human rights, corporate culture and equity
- CSF and the role in the Summit have built a machinery in the dialogues to ensure that the dialogues continue.
 - Instruments of the UN will bring the Summit forward

Mamadou Goita, (Champions Network) Chair

- Opportunity for everyone to ensure that this process is open and allows for debate
- Role that we should play as CSOs will be highly consolidated and it should have a mechanism to engage and have information access and contribute to change

Progress on the Action Tracks

Martin Frick, Deputy Envoy for the Summit

Goals

- New global narrative, and looking to the future more than anything else
- Have clustered the work on the action tracks to best inform our work
- Encouraging countries to host independent dialogues
- Currently 78 Member States have formally confirmed that they will be convening dialogues (more joining daily)

Private Sector Guiding Group

- Group of friends of business, there are no individual countries in the action tracks
- Particularly interested in Civil Society work

Civil Society Participation

- More than 400 submissions from civil society for game-changer propositions
- Independent dialogues of the 158 organizations so far, many by civil society

Dialogues Process Update, David Nabarro

- Food Systems Dialogues can be both hosted by anyone and by regional or formats
 - Governments can use dialogues to help shape their sustainability practices
 - During early 2021, governments, international partners, and NGOs are being contacted and briefed about the Dialogues
 - UN Resident Coordinators and organizations in UN System Country Teams have helped to get more support
 - 81 countries have committed to being part of the process and committed National Dialogue Conveners
- **Who decides on a National Dialogue convener?**
 - A: National government and ministries of foreign affairs in each country
 - **What level are decisions being made? What sort of people are being appointed as conveners?**
 - A: Over half of the conveners are from agriculture. Some are senior technical officers in agriculture, but more and more are ministers (politicals). More than half of the conveners are not from agriculture. The identity of the convener is beginning to shift - because of debates within national government about where the point for food policy ideally sits.
 - In some countries, both the Minister of Health and Agriculture are jointly appointed
 - **Who decides on the framing of the National Dialogues and discussions and progression?**
 - A: The Convener - National government process/ownership is key
 - **What is the role of the UN System?**
 - A: Catalytic and supportive.
 - **Does the UN System have the capacity to influence the national Dialogues?**
 - A: Yes, UN system is identifying and encouraging attention on specific or key issues - leave no one behind and reach the hardest to reach first. This will have an influence on the Dialogues.
 - **Who decides the discussion topics framing on the National Dialogues?**
 - A: The Convener and any support team. Try to link the topics to the SDGs and the objectives of the Summit as reflective in the Action Tracks.
 - **Who takes the outcomes from the National Dialogues and puts them together into a synthesized format?**
 - A: UN System is responsible for harvesting the national dialogue outcomes that are prepared. These outcomes are public documents and posted. These are

synthesized every 3 months - next is April 16th. Anyone can look at the outcomes and check progress.

- **What is done with the synthesis?**

- A: These will be evaluated by many groups: Action tracks, Special Envoy, Scientific Group. This will help inform the Action Track Propositions and adapted to what the Action Track chairs find from the dialogue process. It is unknown what the dialogues will lead to or what the outcomes will look like. There is no clear roadmap on where this will lead.

How to engage Nationally?

1. Directly working with National Conveners (Announced on Summit Website) this will be public.
2. Civil society group can access the UN country team
3. Undertake an independent dialogue as a Civil Society Organization. Many national dialogues are saying they would like to consider independent dialogues within their own discussions.

Progress on UNFSS Action Tracks (AT)

Dr. Lawrence Haddad, Chair AT1

- Working on two routes: trying to figure out what is the most impactful way to organize the game-changers in terms of having a proposition to share, adapting and also planning for Wave 2
- On Wave 2, our open ideas form is still open (closing April 10th -open for 6 months to date). Have received over 100 ideas from Wave 2. In this wave, we are trying hard to fill gaps.
- Gaps that have been identified:
 - Small holders: A lot on hunger reduction but not enough on small holders (solar powered irrigation, infrastructure, strengthening farmer organizations, agricultural extension, etc.)
 - Young children: We know that from COVID, by the end of 2022 more malnourished kids. Groups working around eliminating wasting and early childhood diets (UNICEF and others involved)
 - Youth in agriculture: Everyone talks about this, but no one invests in it. What is the investible proposition?
 - Vegetables: BIG gap in vegetables. These are so key for undernutrition, farm revenue. Working with a group on how to, across value chain, revalue them in society. Not necessarily unaffordable, but they are commonly devalued.
 - Rights based approaches: Rights to Food Group in FAO. Hillel (US Special Repertoire on food) joined. Work to revamp investor standards to align with food systems outcomes (tailored to food)
- 26 Member States are engaged in Action Track 1. They are hosting one-on-one meetings with each group to better engage in Wave 1 and Wave 2

Lasse Bruun, Vice-Chair and Civil Society Lead, AT2

- Wave 1: Divided up game-changers into four categories
 - Food Environment: Fiscal food policy, education, getting the right people to discuss food issues
 - Food Demand: producing the right food for the right people, labeling and ensuring enough nutrition in the food, breastfeeding and how it relates to food demand
 - Food Waste: Making this a key issue is one of the best ways to mitigate climate change issues, finding ways to engage countries to launch public-private partnerships to reduce food waste
 - Cross-Cutting Solutions/Themes:
 - 1. Ensure that dietary guidelines are run through the public, the right stakeholders are involved, and actually factual - not concentrated on developing new, but working with what guidelines already exist
 - 2. Fiscal plans to empower women in the agriculture sector
 - 3. Livestock sector: Need to move to more equitably distribute animal sector in political north vs. global south
- Wave 2: Gaps
 - Need to focus on indigenous knowledge more
 - Subsidies should support healthy food and move officially away from “unhealthy” foods
 - What is the role of plant-based and alternative agriculture (if any)?
 - Thinking through how to implement all of this information
 - CAP 26 in Glasgow
 - 50 by 40 Organization: Trying to be organized across methodology and create a better food system.

Joao Campari, Wildlife Fund, Chair AT3

- Solution is not simple for nature-positive production
- We cannot vilify the food system, rather we need to redesign and reconsider the decisions that shape our way forward
- Vision that we need to deliver resilient landscapes and riverscapes
- Core Areas
 - Protect natural ecosystems
 - Manage existing food production systems
 - Restore and rehabilitate ecosystems
- Refocus these systems toward rights-based approaches and need solidarity. Redesign policy that leads to nature positive outcomes; need to be pragmatic to deliver results
- Received more than 200 game-changers
 - Agri-biodiversity to help reduce ecosystems, redirect subsidies and other agri-food support systems (what value are they or not)
- Gaps: Wave 1
 - Did not have any gender specific propositions. Working with gender lead on this.
 - Finance mechanisms
 - Highlight the role of farmers and fishers and make them explicitly important

- Role of soils and regeneration
- Role of blue food (means use of land and waterway)

Christine Campeau, Chair (for Michelle Nunn), AT4

- AT4 Leadership Group is available here:
https://foodsystems.community/?attachment=1855&document_type=document&download_document_file=1&document_file=65
- AT4 Specific: https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/unfss-at4-discussion_starter-dec2020.pdf
- Wave 1: Consultations are done
 - There are many cross-cutting issues such as gender issues, human rights, agency empowerment, etc.
- Workers are concerned about:
 - Agricultural workforce: The small-scale producers that produce most of the food that we eat.
 - Estimated 1 billion farmers working on small family farms to large commercial farms and plantations.
 - 300-500 million people waged agricultural workers employed on farms and plantations producing crop, livestock, dairy, aquacultural and non-food crop production.
 - Migrants, women, indigenous, youth, both in rural and urban settings.
 - Fishers/fisherfolk working in both marine and freshwater
 - Food processors -- transporting and distributing raw food products, semi-processed and processed products.
 - Workers in supermarket, shop and market handling packaged, canned foods and fresh foods when serving customers and filling shelves.
 - Food preparers and servers employed in cafes, canteens, in schools & factories, and as vendors on the street.

Saleem Huq and Sandrine Dixon-Decleve, Co-Chairs, AT5

- Collecting surveys and getting responses on game changing solutions
- Want to ensure everyone sees the complexity of sustainability and how to build resilience
- Main goal is to come up with a holistic approach
 - This is the systems and cross cutting AT
 - Examine impact on economic, environmental, social and peace/conflict
- Team composition of perfect gender parity, stakeholders across civil society, and variety of geographies represented - fundamental
- Key transforming principles to build resilience - cross cutting approach
 - Diversity and redundancy, sustainability challenges
 - Prosperity for all and equity - peaceful and social cohesion
 - Proper solutions
 - Human rights based approach - include the right to access to food (global right)

- Important to look at impacts of COVID, but also having multi-crisis at one time
- Game changing solutions have been developed with considerations of all of these factors
 - Have been gaps in terms of understanding as to what a real cross cutting approach is to optimize nutrition and the access, the environment and the social elements
 - How do we ensure we get the same narrative across the resilience?
- 140 game changing solutions gathered - whittled down to 25 - now working with other ATs to bring together those game changing solutions to pinpoint those that are really focused on resilience
- Important to include and recognize civil society, community and youth - youth especially are champions for change

Saleemul Huq, AT 5

- The Summit should prioritize the most vulnerable communities in terms of climate change and food systems
- Must emphasize the importance of getting the youth involved and their innovative role as a solution to food systems across the world

Q+A - 73 questions submitted

The Secretariat will answer all questions after the call. Questions during the live session included:

- **Is there a plan for implementation of the Summit outcomes?**
 - A: Martin Frick - Our food systems are broken, we need change - bottom up and top down change needs to happen. 78 countries coming together with stakeholders and making all of government and society involved - this is a game changer. We will likely see heads of government and leadership at the Summit voicing what they are doing to make change. The magic is in the systems. Work will continue beyond the Summit. We hope the Summit is a global inspiring narrative to help with a systemic approach to change.
- **Is there a plan to operationalize machinery with the Summit to assist with Covid-19?**
 - A: Martin Frick- COVID is the most pressing issue that is demonstrating the need for this system - especially the number of those hungry and malnourished - this is just one factor of the truth. Sandrine has touched on how complicated this issue really is - it goes beyond hunger and malnourishment. Plant health, soil health, planetary health, human health and animal health is intrinsic - we know that the conditions we have are more conducive to future threats and health crises.
 - A: Chris Hegadom - The CFS Website has a number of documents from meetings last year around COVID, nutrition and health, including policy recommendations.
 - A: Christine Campeau - There will be more pandemics, there will be more crises. Guidance needs to be grounded in the human rights framework.

- 4 groups working on gender, rights, innovation and finance - cross fertilized across all 5 of the Action tracks.
- **How can developing countries have an influence on the rising food costs?**
 - A: Sandrine Dixon-Deceve: This is a cross cutting issue and we must consider factors such as costing externalities, growing food costs, and food waste. How can we help the most vulnerable get access to food? There needs to be a proper conversation among major stakeholders to unpack the issues here.
- **Nutrition education - this is a weak point. Are there plans or campaigns for food curricula or education especially in schools?**
 - A: Lawrence Haddad - There is a very large piece of work spanning across the ATs focused on learning about nutrition and school - feeding programs, education, adolescent movement/healthy diets. There is also agriculture education in school.
 - A: Lasse Brunn - There are discrepancies between education institutes/textbooks and what is actually being done as it relates to sustainability. This is sending the wrong signal or message to people. Especially as it relates to food choices.
 - A: Ajay Jakhar: This is not about individual actions - should endorse tax on healthy food, subsidize healthy food and link this to food distribution programs.
 - NOTE: Global youth dialogue coming up in April- with UNICEF - to be announced on social media.
- **How will the Summit energize local platforms?**
 - A: David Nabarro (WHO) Nothing should stop you from registering in an independent dialogue. Some countries are behind registering/getting involved with the Summit because there is complication with leadership? National dialogues are being prepared NOW - important to come in with independent dialogues too. National dialogues are looking to those independent dialogues to see what is already being said.
 - The CFS as a multi stakeholder/mechanism that is able to develop voluntary guidance really is important. CFS is looked at as a very valuable model. We do want to have multiple stakeholders to shape our national dialogue. There should be farmers and other producers, civil society, consumers, children, young people, scientists - anyone involved in the food system is necessary. The government ministers are sometimes not sure the easiest way to get the breadth of this involvement - so I strongly encourage to look at CFS framework to ensure diversity and inclusion. Voluntary guidance is a huge value. Continue to present CFS materials - centrally, nationally and sub-nationally.
 - Chris Hegadom: Inclusivity is the important piece to this model.
- **Aqua culture and critical importance for diet and human health - where is this being addressed in the Summit?**
 - A: Joao Campari - This is especially important for AT 3, but also closely working with AT 4 + 5 because this is super important for livelihood and resilience - also important for AT 1. We need to figure out how aquaculture has a place in all of these ATs.

- **Will NGOs be participating in the Pre-Summit?**
 - A: Producer groups involvement in dialogues, as well as invite civil society to join.
- **Reference to piece written by Michael Fockrey - Are human rights squarely rooted in Summit?**
 - A: Sandrine Dixon-Decleve - Universal right to food is central to how we build resilience in the food system and fundamental within many of the ATs.
 - A: Christine Campeau - Invite human rights experts to the conversation.
- **Why has it taken this long to do anything about these sustainability issues?**
 - Sandrine Dixon-Decleve- Regenerative agriculture and agroecology - all ATs focusing on these approaches - it is not being ignored. We all see this as a game changing solution and conversations being had by member sites - the time is now, we are taking it into consideration.
- **Will the Summit make a difference for Africa's finances and access to finance?**
 - A: Dr. Lawrence Haddad - Across the ATs there are about 6-7 funding issues, work around existing funds, and increasing access to existing funds. Call on others to help - I am generating a fund to end hunger - we are close. Currently there are 690 million hungry, but with 33 Billion dollars a year it could be 200 million by 2030.
- **Trade laws that may impact disadvantaged communities?**
 - A: Christine Campeau -Will provide a link for published work.
- **Is there a Wave 3 of game changers? When is the date of meeting in New York?**
 - A: Martin Frick: All of what we are doing is focused on 2030 and forming transformation pathways. At one point we just need to bring everything together. The first 2 Waves will give us a clear picture to move forward. Nothing is written in stone.

Closing Remarks

Mamdou Goita

- Informative session to know what is going on with the ATs and with the process of the Summit itself
- Many questions and comments in chat which is good this has created a good space for sharing
- There are still many areas that need to be discussed
- Find solutions for the Summit to bring on a different contributors and different stakeholders